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Office of the Chief, Economic Research
(Staff meetings held 28 and 30 January 1958, 1100 hours, Room 1128 M Bldg.)

Program Planning for FY 59

Action by
Division and
Branch Chiefs

25X1A9a

██████████ distributed copies of a tentative time schedule for program planning for FY 1959. Mr. ██████████ explained that the due dates for the various phases of planning are crowded together this year somewhat more than usual because of the necessity for having the major part of the program ready for discussion with a panel of outside consultants during the first week in April. In addition, the DCI is to be briefed on the program this year for the first time.

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Post Mortem on NIE 11-4-57, "Main Trends in Soviet Capabilities and Policies, 1957-62"

Information and
Action by
Division Chiefs

██████████ read excerpts from the post mortem on this NIE which was discussed at the IAC meeting he attended on 28 January. He stated that the post mortem affords major guidance in planning the ERA program for FY 59. Division chiefs were asked to provide some material on various points raised in the post mortem by 7 February. The relevant sections of the post mortem are as follows:

"Economic intelligence. While certain progress has been made in the study of Soviet military expenditures, we could still use much more information on the prices the military establishment pays for goods and on detailed production rates, particularly for military end items. Furthermore, a re-examination of the concepts and techniques employed in the cost analysis is desirable. The scope of Soviet budgetary accounts and the reconciliation of estimated military outlays with these and other Soviet material accounts also require further information and analysis. In assessing the economic impact of Soviet defense expenditures, we tend to use primarily a highly aggregative measure -- the ratio of total defense expenditures to gross national product; this should be supplemented by other techniques which might disclose important specific impacts. Also, further effort should be made to refine our dollar comparison of Soviet and US defense outlays.

While the new industrial organization was introduced too recently to be evaluated fully in this estimate,

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its economic effects and possible political consequences will be a major intelligence target during the coming year. In this field collection efforts and analysis of Soviet press sources should be intensified."

NIS Program

Action by
St/PB

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██████████ indicated that at one time there had been discussion of a proposal for the ERA to take over the responsibility for preparing these parts of NIS Chapter 6 now contributed by the military agencies but with appropriate coordination of all drafts with these agencies. ██████████ was asked to look into the status of this proposal.

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Security Clearance for Employees to Publish Articles

Information

Various aspects of the problem of getting security clearance for employees to publish articles dealing with the economies of the Sino-Soviet Bloc were discussed. It was decided that the matter would have to be handled on a case by case basis.

Library Questionnaire

Action by
all analysts

25X1A9a

██████████ announced that a questionnaire on the value to ERA analysts of various library services would be distributed by the end of the week. ██████████ stated that all analysts should fill these out carefully because they are to be evaluated by the Committee for Review of the CIA Library.

25X1A9a

New Procedures for Sending Unclassified Agency Reports to Academic Requesters

Information

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██████████ reported that we now have security approval to send unclassified FID translations, and presumably other unclassified Agency reports also, to academic and other outside requesters or interested persons. The requested materials are to be delivered through OO field offices.

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Prospective Visit from Representatives of ██████████

Information
and action by
Division Chiefs

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██████████ stated that several analysts in ██████████ who work on economic matters may visit ORR in May or June. He suggested that the ERA might want to talk to them about agriculture, population, transportation and Bloc activities in the Middle East. He asked the Division Chiefs to consider what other topics could profitably be discussed and to report back at the next staff meeting.

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Revision of DCID 15/1 Concerning "Production and Coordination
of Foreign Economic Intelligence"

Information

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[REDACTED] suggestions for revising one paragraph
of this DCID were discussed and approved.

Current Intelligence Developments

Information

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[REDACTED] reported on the highlights of various
current developments.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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